



# Newsletter February 2023

## Introducing the New Leadership for the Sponsorship Fund Project



Pham Ngo Hoang Dung, known to all as Dzung, is a young Vietnamese Jesuit priest who committed himself to the Region of Thailand. Before his ordination, he had already done three years of “regency” or involvement in the Jesuits’ apostolic work and community life in Thailand. He returned last autumn to be the university chaplain for the students in Northern Thailand. With his return to Thailand, Fr. Paul Pollock has handed the management of the Sponsorship Fund Project over to Dzung.

To learn more about Dzung and his work among the Thai Youth, visit the article from the Jesuits Global website:

<https://www.jesuits.global/2023/02/03/a-vietnamese-jesuit-among-thai-youth/?fbclid=IwAR1ppYTAZPFMMBH5CsTpzmAMj-5xukGMnByfxUDnDFghoGWwlHcz-Cnljqs>

**Scott Johnson continues to volunteer as sponsorship coordinator. He has provided an overview of the current status of the sponsorship fund:**

*A total of 3,381,688 Thai Baht was raised for the 2022-3 academic year. 225 individual sponsors from 16 countries supported the education of 834 students, ranging in age from kindergarten to university. Remarkably 53% of the individual sponsors were from Singapore.*

*Thank you so much to all our sponsors for your generous support for these students.*

*We have identified 938 students to be sponsored in the academic year 2023-4. As of 31 January 2023 sponsorship has been confirmed to support 883 of these young people, and we are hoping that the generosity of our sponsors will help us secure funds for the remaining 55.*

*In addition to sponsorship we receive donations to a General Fund which supports special projects and relief work in the villages where our students live. The total amount in this Fund currently stands at 333,221 Thai Baht.*

For those who have been sending your sponsorship contributions to the Kasikorn Bank Account, please take note of our new bank account.



One of the ways our Seven Fountains community raises additional funds is through our **Christmas Dinner Fundraiser**.

After a 2 year hiatus due to the Covid pandemic a decision was taken to hold the fundraiser in December 2022, but on a smaller scale than in previous years. The proceeds from the dinner totalled 135,000 Thai Baht. Than Hartman who has been toiling in her kitchen to produce baked goods for sale to the community here, both after Sunday mass and at the fundraiser, has raised an additional 150,000 Thai Baht. The total amount raised is thus 285,000 Thai Baht. Many thanks to the organizing committee and to all those who supported the Fundraiser.

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The sponsorship fund currently supports students from four northern provinces : Mae Hong Son, Tak, Chiang Rai and Chiang Mai. For the academic year 2023-4 the majority of students are from Chiang Mai province (a total of 559 students). The fund also supports 44 students at the Xavier Learning Community in Chiang Rai, 271 students from villages in Mae Hong Son, and 64 students from Tak province.



*Students from the Xavier Learning Community in Chiang Rai*



*Students preparing for the journey to school during the rainy season in Chiang Mai province*



*A group of students from Tak province*

For more information about sponsoring a student:  
[www.thesevenfountains.org/index.php/en/scholarships-for-needy-students](http://www.thesevenfountains.org/index.php/en/scholarships-for-needy-students)  
or contact Scott Johnson by email: [ourstudents.7fountains@gmail.com](mailto:ourstudents.7fountains@gmail.com)



## Sponsors Visit Students from Ban Huay Tong and Ban Huay Yao Villages

On December 23, 2022 Fr. Dzung, Scott, Ying, Klæ and Mint took sponsors who were visiting Chiang Mai from the U.K. to see some of the students in the sponsorship program who study at Ban Huay Tong School in Mae Wang District. The students come from Ban Huay Tong and Ban Huay Yao villages. Thirty-four students ranging from age 9 to 15 years old study at this school.



The visit gave an opportunity to play with the students and share some small gifts brought by the visiting sponsors. We also heard from some of the mothers about the challenge they face in the village due to lack of water. During the hot season when there is no rain the families are unable to grow vegetables to support their families. Fr. Dzung has asked the coordinator there to prepare a budget to see if the General Fund might be able to assist with irrigation solutions that would benefit the families and allow them to grow vegetables year-round.



## Children's Day – January 28-29, 2022

More than 30 university students from the Catholic Student Network of Northern Thailand celebrated Thailand Children's Day with a special program at Ban Pon Marie in Mae Taeng District of Chiang Mai Province. The university students, many of whom are sponsored through the Sponsorship Fund Project helped prepare and execute the program and day's activities for 75+ children from 5 surrounding villages. The program consisted of celebrating Mass together with the high school students living at the Ban Pon Marie boarding house, morning and afternoon game "Olympics" with the children, and the giving of gifts consisting of notebooks, pencils, erasers, cake and milk. During the survey for the trip the children also received warm blankets.

